

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

CH 581

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Columbia River Bridge at Wenatcheeother names/site number WSDOT 285/10

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 2 and Wenatchee, spanning the Columbia River ☐ not for publicationcity or town Wenatchee ☒ vicinitystate Washington code WA county Chelan and Douglas code 007, zip code 98801
017

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary M. Hennrich
Signature of certifying official/Title2/8/95
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☒ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"Bridges of Washington State, 1941-1950"

"Historic Bridges & Tunnels in Washington State"

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/road-related/bridge

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/road-related/bridge

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: steel through arch

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other steel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Physical Description.

Completed in 1950, the Columbia River Bridge at Wenatchee connects the cities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee, Washington. The total length of the bridge is 1208 feet. The structure consists of concrete T-beam approach spans; steel deck truss anchor arm spans; steel, half-through, cantilever truss spans; and a steel suspended, through tied arch span. The west approach, or Wenatchee end, is 142.5 feet long and includes an overpass span to accommodate the two existing tracks of the Burlington Northern (formerly the Great Northern) railroad, with additional space for two future tracks. The east approach is 137.5 feet long and is similar to the west approach. It includes an overpass span to accommodate one leg of a cloverleaf road network to aid in the routing of highway traffic.

The design of the steel spans, including a suspended tied arch, was unique for this era and appears to be the first of its type to have been built on the state highway system. The structural steel portion of the bridge consists of a main span of 480 feet, with anchor arms of 224 feet each. The main span includes a suspended span 352 feet in length, and two cantilever spans each being 64 feet long. A 54-foot roadway provides for four 12-foot traffic lanes with a 2-foot median dividing strip and 2-foot clearances at the curbs. The trusses are 66 feet 3 inches on centers, with two sidewalks, each 5 feet in width, included in the width between the trusses. The height of the structure, from low water to the top of the steel, is 180 feet.

A complex, detailed construction plan was included with the design plans that outlined the erection and jacking procedure to be used for erection and to allow for temperature motions, as well as for jacking stresses and jacking motions. For construction purposes, the suspended span performed structurally as a three-hinged arch, but became a two-hinged tied arch after erection. The tied arch span includes a heavy horizontal member along the roadway level. This design permits the entire structure to be continuous to accommodate changes in its length resulting from temperature fluctuation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8.9 Page 1

8. Statement of Significance.

The Columbia River Bridge at Wenatchee is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Spanning the Columbia River between the communities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee, this national-award-winning bridge is one of the most imposing bridges crossing the Columbia River. The Department of Highways' Biennial Report for 1946-1948 described the bridge as the most important structure of all those bridges being constructed at that time. Located on U.S. route 2, the bridge occupies a vital link in the east-west U.S. highway transportation system. Completed in 1950, the new bridge replaced an existing structure that was built in 1908, but had become obsolete (too narrow and weak in load-carrying capacity).

Clarence B. Shain was the Director of Highways during construction of the Columbia River Bridge at Wenatchee. The Bridge Engineer was R. W. Finke. The contractor was General Construction Co., Seattle. American Bridge, a Division of U.S. Steel Corporation, Gary, Indiana, fabricated the structural steel used in the bridge. The bridge opened for traffic on 28 October 1950. Contract cost of the structure was \$1,853,684.

The structure was of interest architecturally as well as structurally. It received the National Competitive Award given by the American Institute of Steel Construction for being the most beautiful bridge built in 1950 in its class (comprising one or more spans over 400 feet in length).

9. Major Bibliographical References.

Washington State Department of Highways. *Biennial Reports*, 1946-1948, 1948-1950.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Columbia River Bridge at Wenatchee plans, dated 5 November 1948, on file in the Bridge Preservation Office, WSDOT, Olympia, Washington.

WSDOT. "Bridge Condition Card—Columbia River Bridge at Wenatchee," 28 July 1948, on file in the Bridge Preservation Office, WSDOT, Olympia, Washington.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☒ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Period of Significance

1950

Significant Dates

1950

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Washington State, Dept. of Highways

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☒ Other State agency Bridge Condition Unit,
- ☐ Federal agency WSDOT, Olympia, WA;
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ University Archaeological & Historical
- ☐ Other Services, Eastern Washington
- Name of repository: University, Cheney, WA

Name of Property

County and State


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0
Zone Easting Northing

3 
Zone Easting Northing

2 

4

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The property is a bridge, measuring 1,208 feet, spanning the Columbia River on U.S. route 2, and connecting the cities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee, Washington.

Boundary Justification The boundary of the property is the bridge itself.

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert H. Krier, J. Byron Barber, Robin Bruce, Craig Holstine

organization AHS, Eastern Washington University date 12 December 1991

street & number MS-168 Monroe Hall telephone (509) 359-2284

city or town Cheney state WA zip code 99004

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

JUL 10 1995

Archaeology and
Historic Preservation

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000623

Date Listed: 5/24/95

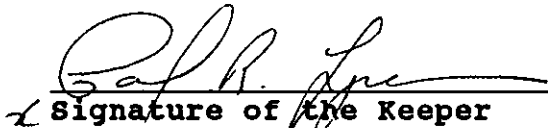
Columbia River Bridge at Wenatchee
Property Name

Chelan
County

WA
State

Bridges of Washington State MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

6/12/95
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

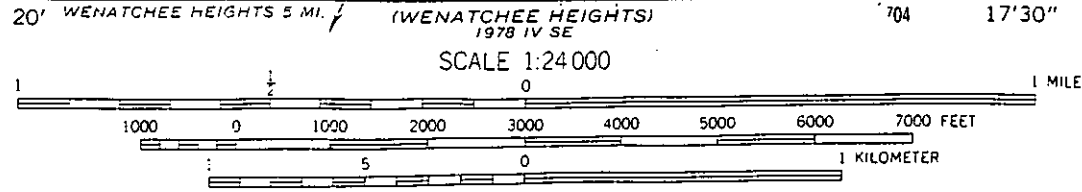
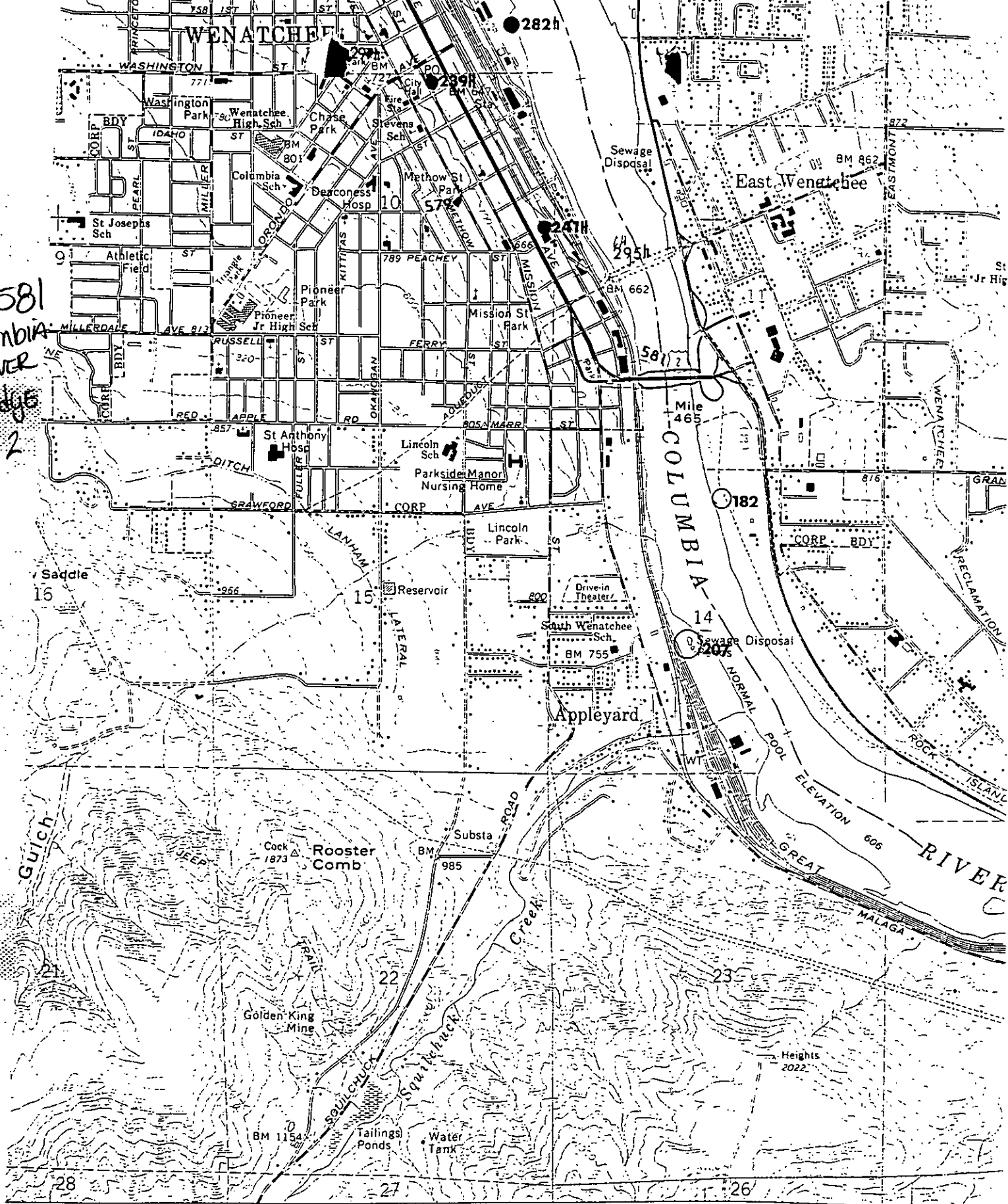
The correct National Register Criterion is: C
[The original nomination contained conflicting information between the cover page and the narrative text.]

This information was confirmed with Lauren McCroskey of the WA SHPO.

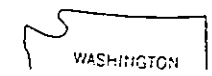
DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

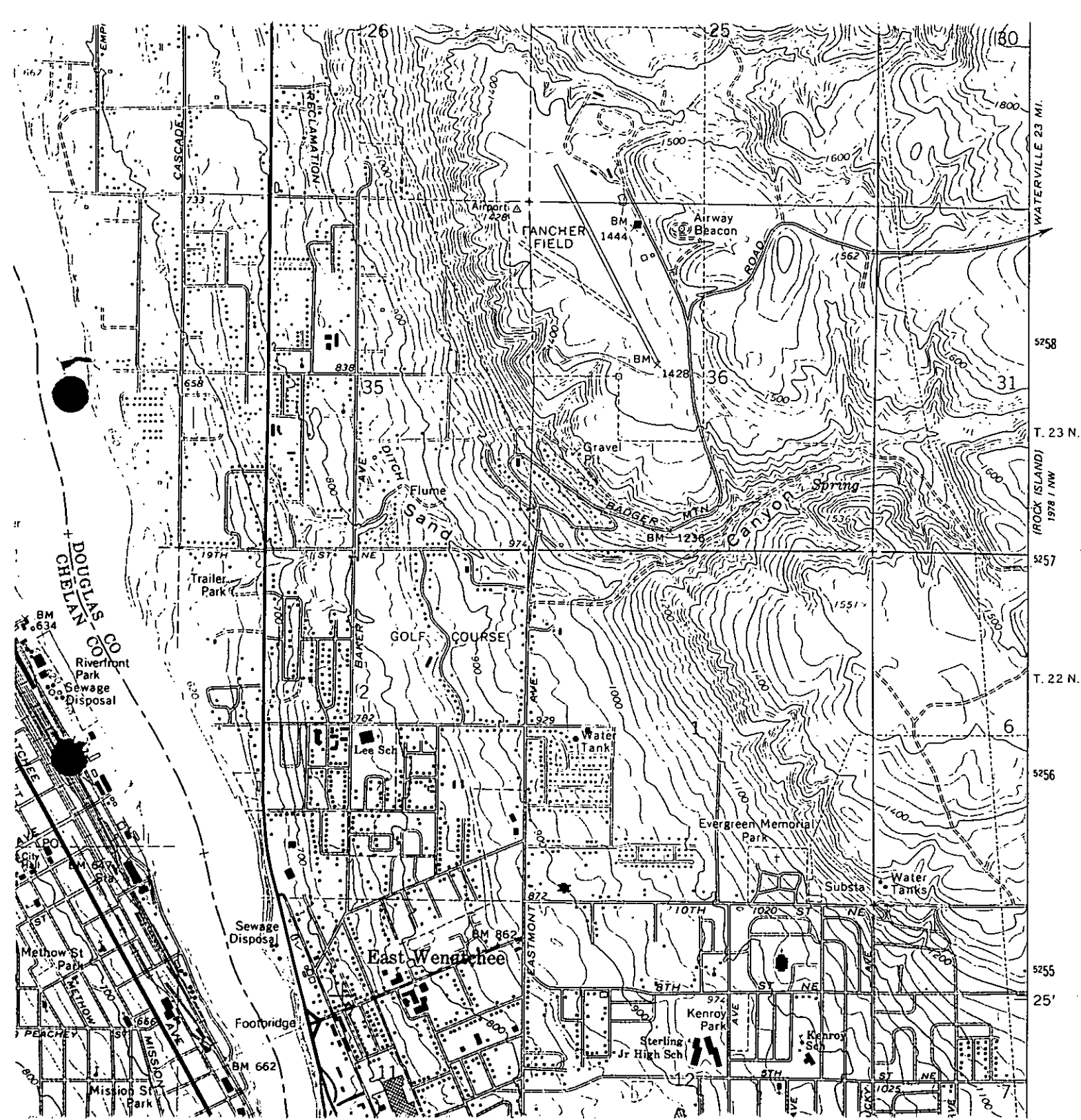
CH 581
Columbia
River
bridge
Hwy 2

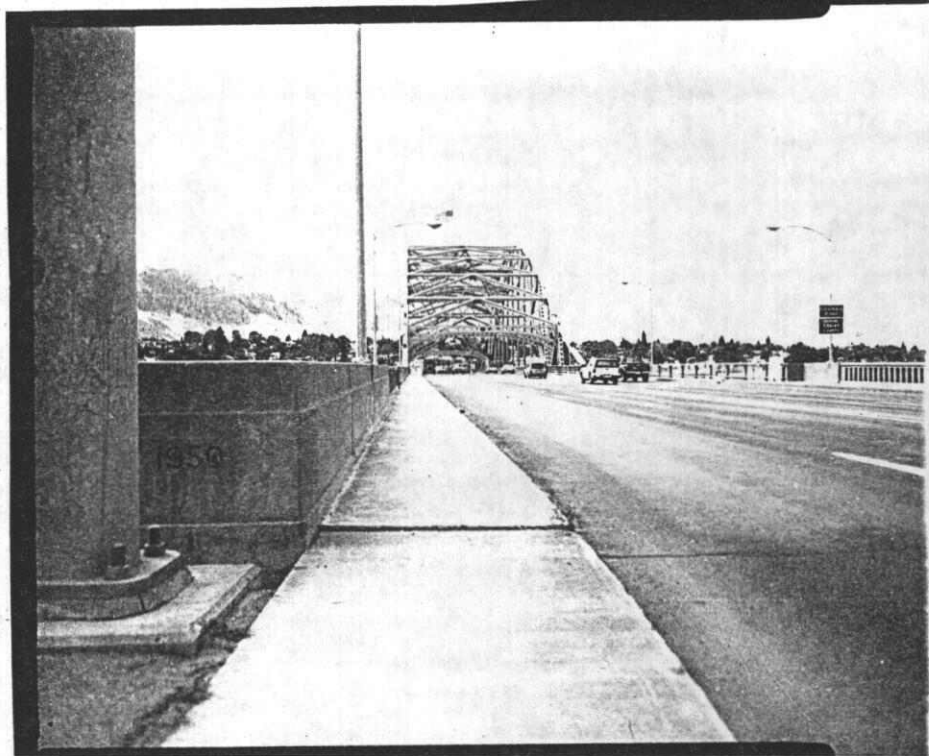
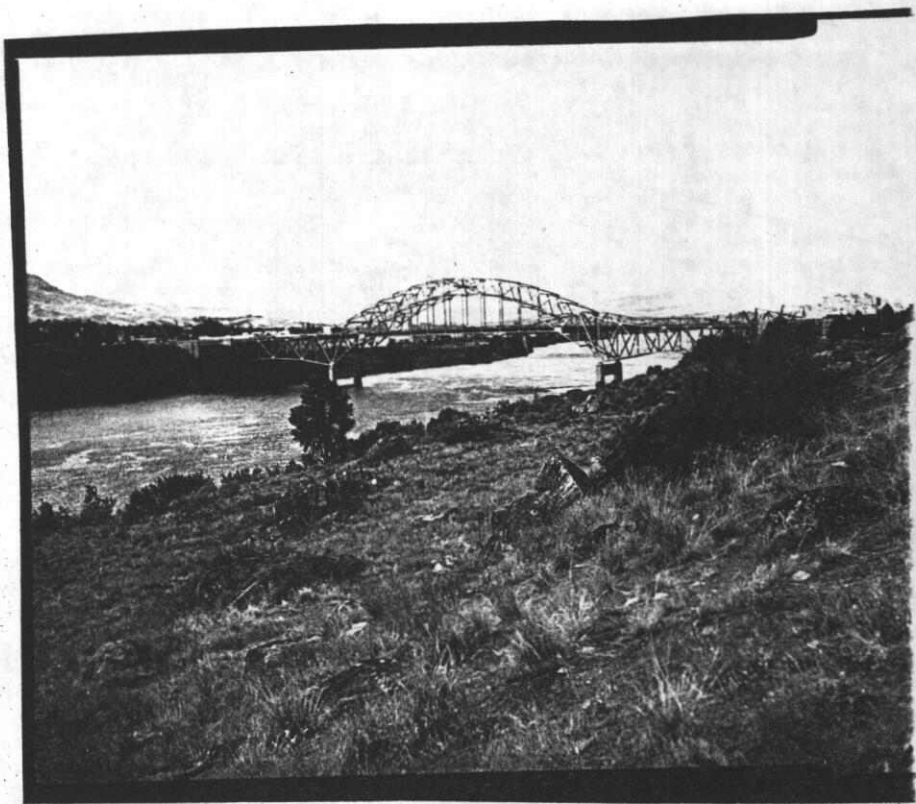


CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



Hea:
 Medi



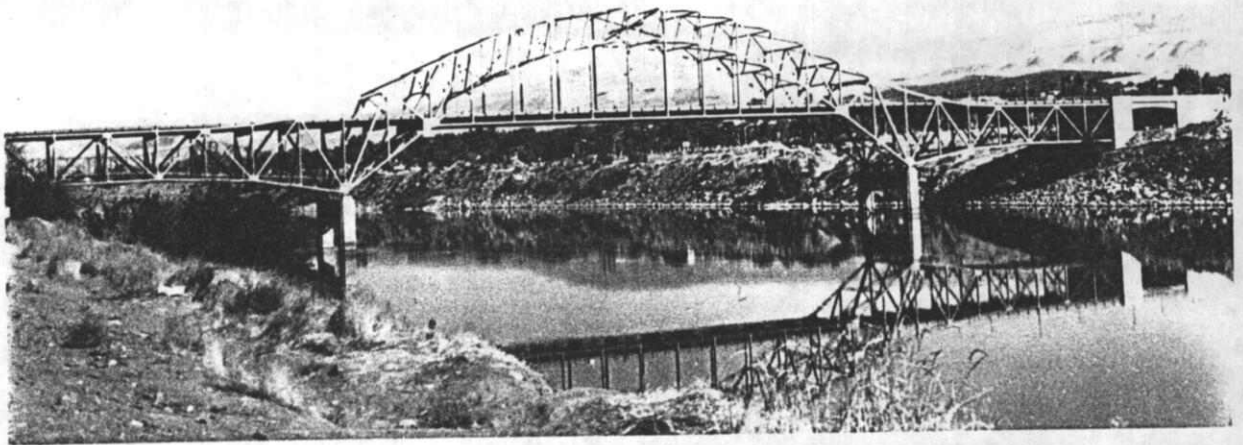
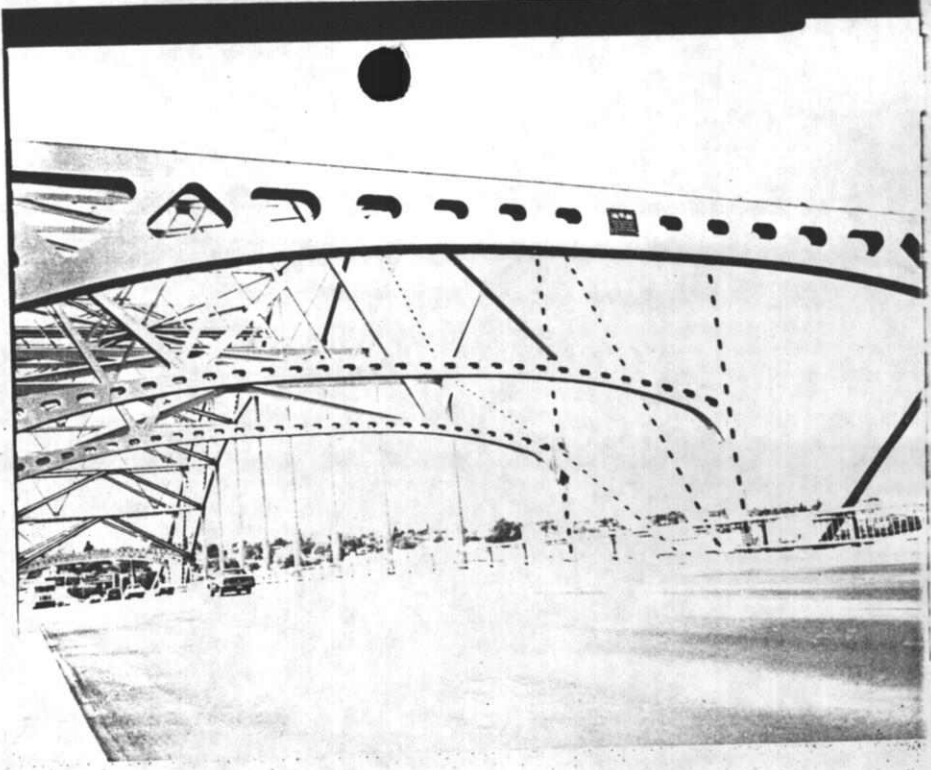


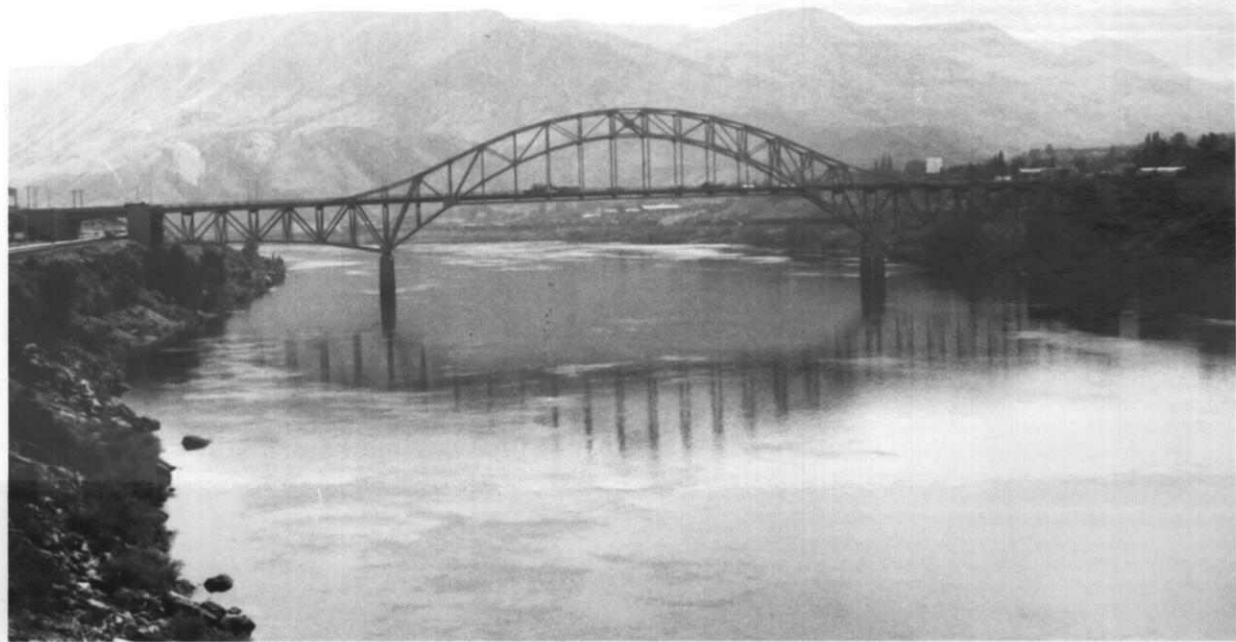
Columbia River Bridge at Wenatchee
From southwest - August 1994
Photographer: Lawrence M. Jacobson

Columbia River Bridge
at Wenatchee from east
looking west - August 1994

Photographer: Lawrence M. Jacobson







Columbia River Bridge at Wenatchee 285/10

WSDOT Bridge No. 285-10

Wenatchee, Washington

Photographer: Washington State Dept. of Trans

13 September 1973

Washington State Dept. of Transportation, Bridge

Condition Unit, Olympia, Washington

Looking north